(ii) Taking into account all the relevant factors which go into the calculation of premium rates, viz. mortality, interest and expenses, the LIC has been reducing the premium rates under non-profit plans from time to time in the past. The recent reduction in such premium rates ranges between 1 per cent to 38 per cent depending upon the plan and term and is considered to be reasonable.

(iii) The premium rates being charged under Group Scheme for Railway Porters are not comparable with the premium rates underlying Central Government Employees Scheme, for the mortality experience of the lives covered under the latter scheme is different. Besides, the former scheme also covers death due to accident apart from natural causes and thus results into higher cost for the risk cover.

(iv) The yield under insurance policies cannot be compared with the yield obtainable from other savings instruments as the latter do not cover life-risk. The net yield on Life Fund of LIC has, however, shown a steady increase over the years.

Ban on import of synthetic fibres

1955. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been made by the representatives of Indian Jute Mills Association, Central trade unions and West Bengal Government to ban the import of synthetic fibres and granules; and

(b) if so what are the details in this regard and the Union Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Since synthetic substitutes for jute bags are being produced in our country by importing cheaper priced granules from abroad, representations have been received from time to time from various quarters for banning import of granules. In order to protect jute Industry from the adverse competition faced in the hands of synthetic substitutes, Government have favoured mandatory usage of jute packaging materials by different sectors of the industry. An Empowered Committee of Secretaries has been set up to work out the modalities.

Satellite purchasing centres for cotton purchase

1956. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up satellite purchasing centres in rural areas and also in tribal and backward belts by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI); and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and what are the locations of the satellite purchasing centres to be set up in Andhra Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) (a) and (b) Cotton Corporation of India is opening additional centres for purchase of cotton wherever the quantum of arrivals of cotton are heavy and warrant additional facilities.

D.G.S. and D

1957. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the D.G.S.&D. approved the rates of conventional steel irrigation pipes every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that DGS&D have received proposals regarding the approval of rates of